

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## D.C. FLAT FEDERAL TAX

### HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 1997*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recommend the following editorial to my colleagues, entitled "Fixing a Flat," which appeared in the May 19, 1997, Wall Street Journal. I commend the Congresswoman for fighting against the District of Columbia's destructively high tax policies and for a pro-growth, pro-investment flat tax:

#### FIXING A FLAT

Summer's almost here, which means soon tourists will be pouring into Washington, D.C., to see the sights in their beloved capital city, a municipality so broke, so inept, so seemingly beyond hope that the financial control board that oversees its affairs is weighing a plan to appoint a city manager and largely supplant Mayor Marion Barry. There has to be a better way to save the capital, and believe it or not, some of the attending politicians may have hit on an answer: a flat 15% federal income tax and elimination of all capital gains taxes in the District of Columbia.

It's closer to reality than you might imagine. Last week, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott won rousing cheers from a crowd of D.C. residents when he and four other Senators embraced a flat tax sponsored by Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District's Democratic Delegate.

The Norton plan would levy a flat 15% federal tax on all bona fide District residents. The first \$25,000 of income would be exempt for single filers and the first \$30,000 for married couples. Her plan would zero out capital gains taxes on investments in the District made by residents. Senator Lott would go further: no residency requirement for investors and he'd add a \$5,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers to encourage a return of the middle-class. Since 1950, the District's population has plummeted to less than 520,000 from 800,000.

Ms. Norton says that the combined support of Senator Lott and Speaker Newt Gingrich has convinced her that "there is going to be some configuration of tax cuts for District residents" this year. She has other powerful allies, including Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman and GOP Senators Connie Mack and Sam Brownback.

No one pretends that a new tax regime will solve all the District's problems, but Delegate Norton says a dramatic confidence-building measure is needed to stop the exodus. She says her tax plan has "united black, whites and Hispanics" and in every part of the city "the enthusiasm and the chorus is the same: Do it and we'll stay."

The opposition to a flat tax for D.C. comes in two forms. Some claim it wouldn't spur economic growth and that rising property values will create a zero-sum housing crisis. "There are not enough homes for the poor now," says liberal activist Mark Thompson. "Where are they going to live when all these people start coming back in the city?" As far as we can see, every city with the exception of rent-controlled New York City manages to

build housing for a variety of incomes. A tax-liberated D.C. would likely see an explosive growth in construction.

Others object that a D.C. flat tax is unfair to nearby suburbs and other states; D.C. residents get a tax break while other Americans endure combined marginal tax rates of more than 40%. A fair point, we suppose, but hardly cause to condemn the District to economic and social collapse. And if it succeeded, the idea would spread rapidly elsewhere.

That, of course, is precisely why it's believed President Clinton will persist in his opposition to Delegate Norton's flat tax. The opposition of old-line Democratic constituency groups to any idea they didn't dream up 25 years ago is utterly pro-forma by now. Delegate Norton thinks the first step is to get her bill onto the President's desk. Senator Lott seems to agree. Keep pushing.

## A TRIBUTE TO RISA MUNITZ-GRUBERGER

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Risa Munitz-Gruberger for her dedication to teaching Judaism throughout the Conejo Valley community. I recognize Risa on behalf of the Chabad of the Conejo as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award is given to thank Risa for imparting her educational training on the Jewish Community. Risa has had great success achieving her goals—spreading a sense of values, morals, and ethics throughout our community and assisting the needy when they are troubled physically or spiritually. It is for this success that we are honoring her today.

Risa's contributions to Judaic education include countless hours of volunteering and lecturing, but most importantly, the design and distribution of her own innovative educational materials. These materials encourage young and old to embrace their Jewish identity.

Risa's recognition here today is long overdue. Shortly after moving to the area, Risa read about Chabad and knew she wanted to become a part of it. She immediately began planning a communitywide parent education series in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center and the Conejo Jewish Academy which explored Jewish ideas and theology. Risa has since sponsored several other programs and continues to support Judaism in our community.

In the spirit of building the bridge—a bridge to the past, future, and all people, I join our community in honoring Risa Munitz-Gruberger for her hard work and recognition of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER LANSING BUSINESS MONTHLY

### HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 1997*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago J. Christopher Holman founded the Greater Lansing Business Monthly in hopes of publicizing and promoting local business within the community of Lansing. This week the Greater Lansing Business Monthly will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Chris Holman and his staff to promote the strengths of the Lansing business community. With readership of over 30,000, the Greater Lansing Business Monthly is distributed to all non-resident addresses in Lansing, Mason, Holt, Grand Ledge, East Lansing, Haslett, and Okemos. The monthly features local stocks, profiles products made in the Lansing area, and provides updates on the overall Michigan economy.

The Greater Lansing Business Monthly serves as a base of local economic information to the community and its commitment to local small businesses is unmatched. It is much more than a periodical trumpeting Greater Lansing as a marvelous place to do business. It is also an integral part of the business community with the formation of CEO networks, directors luncheons, and the entrepreneurial awards.

On behalf of all the citizens of Michigan's eighth district, I extend congratulations and best wishes to Chris Holman and his staff.

## THE FAILURE OF RACIAL PREFERENCES

### HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 1997*

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, President Clinton delivered a speech in San Diego criticizing the people of California for enacting the California Civil Rights Initiative [CCRI]. The wisdom of CCRI in outlawing special preferences based solely on race, said Mr. Clinton, should be suppressed in favor of continued race-based classifications by our Government. The following essay, published in the New York Times the same weekend, describes why Californians—and Americans—are indeed wise to abhor Government-mandated racial preferences.

[From the New York Times, June 15, 1997]

FACE THE FAILURE OF RACIAL PREFERENCES

(By Newt Gingrich and Ward Connerly; Newt Gingrich is Speaker of the House of Representatives. Ward Connerly is chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute and a University of California regent)

In August 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave heartfelt voice to his dream of

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